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August 19, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: All OPS Staff

**SUBJECT: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Policy
for Ontario Public Servants**

Further to the government's August 17 [announcement](#) regarding the implementation of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies in a number of sectors, I am writing to let you know that a policy is under development for the Ontario Public Service (OPS), in consultation with OPS bargaining agents.

This policy is part of our ongoing work to keep the approximately 31,000 employees who are working in-person safe, and to support the safe, graduated and flexible return to OPS workplaces over the next two months for those who have been working remotely.

The mandatory policy will require Ontario public servants to:

- Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19; or
- Advise of a medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19 and undertake regular testing; or
- Complete a COVID-19 vaccination educational session and undertake regular testing.

Employees will be required to confirm full vaccination against COVID-19. All vaccinated Ontarians have been provided with confirmation of their vaccination status.

This policy will be finalized shortly in alignment with Phase 2 of our graduated return to OPS workplaces plan, where employees who shifted to remote work locations will begin a phased and safe return. It will apply to all public servants working in ministries or Commission public bodies.

I recognize you may have questions. I will continue to keep you informed as additional details of the policy are finalized. Additional information about the policy has been posted on the InsideOPS COVID-19 [resources page](#).

For information about how to book a vaccine, please visit [Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine site](#). You can also find the list of the pharmacies offering vaccines [here](#).

As always, protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of Ontario public servants is our top priority. This additional measure will help us continue to ensure you are protected from COVID-19 as we deliver vital services to the public. We will continue to monitor and adjust to the latest public health guidance as the situation evolves.

We are committed to keeping you informed and updated as changes are made.

In friendship,

Deborah Richardson

Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Secretariat

Secretary of Treasury Board and Management Board of Cabinet